



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Philippe Tortell

Meet Philippe Tortell, former Or Shalom finance committee member, board member, co-President and president. His wife, Maite, is from Granada, Spain and his son, Samuel, had his Bar Mitzvah at Or Shalom last December.

Philippe was born in France, the younger of two brothers. His parents were born and raised in Alexandria, Egypt. The family moved to Montreal in the early 1970s, and then to Algeria for a year when Philippe was six. A year later, the family moved back to Canada, settling in Oakville, Ontario. After another eight years, the family moved once again, this time to Rome, Italy, where Philippe completed high school. He then moved back to Montreal to complete a B.Sc. in Biology at McGill University (where he met Maite), followed by an M.A. and Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University. In 2002, he and Maite moved to Vancouver to start jobs in the Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences at UBC. At 4 a.m. most weekday mornings, you will find him wide awake with a cup of tea and likely doing some writing, reading, or computer programming.

Well-travelled and well-rounded, Philippe plays Flamenco guitar, loves to ski and swim, enjoys cooking Indian food, fly fishing and mountain biking. He has spent more than a year of his life on research vessels, and has conducted scientific expeditions to the Arctic, Antarctic, and Equatorial regions.

He is drawn to Or Shalom by the tight knit intergenerational community and the deep and thoughtful conversations he always encounters over Kiddush lunch. He has recently become a semi-regular on the Shabbat Leyning rotation.

Ask him about his upcoming trip to Antarctica!